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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/815,264	03/23/2001	Andrey A. Boukharov	38-21(51237)G	8785

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ARNOLD & PORTER
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555 12TH STREET, N.W.
WASHINGTON, DC 20004-1206

EXAMINER

MORAN, MARJORIE A

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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1631

DATE MAILED: 12/24/2002

6

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/815,264

Applicant(s)

BOUKHAROV ET AL.

Examiner

Marjorie A. Moran

Art Unit

1631

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 1 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-37 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☒ Claim(s) 1-37 are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on ____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). ____. |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) ____. | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

Art Unit: 1631

Renumbering Claims

Two claims numbered 27 were filed in the instant application. The second claim numbered 27 was renumbered claim 28 and originally numbered claims 28-36 have been renumbered as claims 29-37, respectively. See 37 CFR 1.126.

After renumbering, claims 1-37 are pending.

Election/Restrictions

Restriction to one of the following inventions is required under 35 U.S.C. 121:

- I. Claims 1-5 and 8-11, drawn to a purified nucleic acid molecule, classified in class 536, subclass 24.1.
- II. Claims 6-7 and 12-17, drawn to a purified nucleic acid sequence comprising a heterologous nucleic acid sequence, classified in class 536, subclass 23.6.
- III. Claims 18-36, drawn to a transgenic plant, seed, and plant produced from the seed, classified in class 800, subclass 278.
- IV. Claim 37, drawn to a method of transforming a plant cell, classified in class 435, subclass 468.

The inventions are distinct, each from the other because of the following reasons:

Inventions I and II are separate and distinct. While both Groups are directed to purified polynucleotides, the polynucleotide of Group II is limited to comprise heterologous nucleic acids, and is therefore necessarily a different sequence (structure) than the nucleic acid sequence of Group I. In addition, a search for a sequence comprising heterologous nucleic acids is a different search than for one comprising only "endogenous" nucleic acids.

Invention III is separate and distinct from each of Inventions I and II. A plant is a different biochemical entity than a nucleic acid sequence, with different properties, and would be

Art Unit: 1631

expected to behave differently in methods of use. While the Groups are related in that the plant of Group III apparently comprises the nucleic acid of Group II, the Groups are nonetheless directed to different and distinct products, as supported by their different classification and properties. Further, a search for a plant would require a search different from that for a nucleic acid sequence.

Inventions IV and II are related to Invention V as products and process of use. The inventions can be shown to be distinct if either or both of the following can be shown: (1) the process for using the product as claimed can be practiced with another materially different product or (2) the product as claimed can be used in a materially different process of using that product (MPEP § 806.05(h)). In the instant case the nucleic acid sequence of Group I may be used to express sequences in nonplant cells such as bacteria, insect cells, etc. while the nucleic acid sequence of Group II may be used to express proteins, enzymes, antibodies, etc. in nonplant cells. In addition, the sequences of either of Groups I or II may be used in hybridization methods, methods of amplification, and Southern blots.

Inventions IV and III are not related. While the plant of Group III and the host cell produced by Group IV are limited to comprise the same nucleic acids, the plants of Group III are not limited to be those produced from or comprising the host cells of Group IV, nor are the host cells of Group IV limited to be those which may be grown into or comprised within the plants of Group III. For these reasons, Groups III and IV are not related.

Because these inventions are distinct for the reasons given above and have acquired a separate status in the art as shown by their different classification, restriction for examination purposes as indicated is proper. In addition, these inventions are distinct for the reasons given above and have acquired a separate status in the art because of their recognized divergent

subject matter (i.e. plants are not nucleic acids or host cells), therefore restriction for examination purposes as indicated is proper.

Because these inventions are distinct for the reasons given above and the search required for Groups II-IV is not required for Group I, the search required for Groups III-IV is not required for Group II, and the search required for Group IV is not required for Group III, restriction for examination purposes as indicated is proper.

This application contains claims directed to the following patentably distinct species of the claimed invention: the species of protein encoded as recited in claims 7 and 23.

Applicant is required under 35 U.S.C. 121 to elect a single disclosed species (encoded protein) for prosecution on the merits to which the claims shall be restricted if no generic claim is finally held to be allowable. Currently, all claims except claims 7 and 23 are generic.

Applicant is advised that a reply to this requirement must include an identification of the species that is elected consonant with this requirement, and a listing of all claims readable thereon, including any claims subsequently added. An argument that a claim is allowable or that all claims are generic is considered nonresponsive unless accompanied by an election.

Upon the allowance of a generic claim, applicant will be entitled to consideration of claims to additional species which are written in dependent form or otherwise include all the limitations of an allowed generic claim as provided by 37 CFR 1.141. If claims are added after the election, applicant must indicate which are readable upon the elected species. MPEP § 809.02(a).

Should applicant traverse on the ground that the species are not patentably distinct, applicant should submit evidence or identify such evidence now of record showing the species to be obvious variants or clearly admit on the record that this is the case. In either instance, if

the examiner finds one of the inventions unpatentable over the prior art, the evidence or admission may be used in a rejection under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) of the other invention.

Applicant is reminded that upon the cancellation of claims to a non-elected invention, the inventorship must be amended in compliance with 37 CFR 1.48(b) if one or more of the currently named inventors is no longer an inventor of at least one claim remaining in the application. Any amendment of inventorship must be accompanied by a request under 37 CFR 1.48(b) and by the fee required under 37 CFR 1.17(i).

Sequence Election Requirement Applicable to All Groups

In addition, each Group detailed above reads on patentably distinct Groups drawn to multiple SEQ ID Numbers. The sequences are patentably distinct because they are unrelated sequences and each unrelated sequence is considered a separate and distinct product, therefore a further restriction is applied to each Group. For an elected Group drawn to either amino acid or polypeptide sequences, the applicant must further elect a **single** amino acid or a **single** polypeptide sequence. (See MPEP 803.04). Due to the increasingly large size of sequence databases which must be searched and the increasing numbers of applications requiring sequence searches, it creates an undue burden on the Office to search more than a single sequence (product) per application. For these reasons, the requirements of 37 CFR 1.141 et seq. are no longer waived and applicant is required to elect a single sequence for examination. Applicant is reminded that this is a restriction requirement, not an election of species.

Applicant is advised that the reply to this requirement to be complete must include an election of the invention and the SEQ ID number to be examined even though the requirement be traversed (37 CFR 1.143).

Art Unit: 1631

Applicant is reminded that upon the cancellation of claims to a non-elected invention, the inventorship must be amended in compliance with 37 CFR 1.48(b) if one or more of the currently named inventors is no longer an inventor of at least one claim remaining in the application. Any amendment of inventorship must be accompanied by a petition under 37 CFR 1.48(b) and by the fee required under 37 CFR 1.17(l).

Conclusion

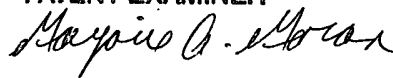
Claims 1-37 are restricted.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Marjorie A. Moran whose telephone number is (703) 305-2363. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday to Friday, 7:30 am to 4 pm EST.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Michael Woodward can be reached on (703) 308-4028. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703) 308-4242 for regular communications and (703) 872-9306 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to an LIE, Tina Plunkett, whose telephone number is (703) 305-3524.

MARJORIE MORAN
PATENT EXAMINER



December 19, 2002